

Bay-Peninsula Region

**San Mateo County
NOVA Job Center, San Mateo**



After working in the health care field in the Silicon Valley for a number of years, Colin O'Connor suddenly found himself unemployed, last November. Realizing he needed help focusing his job search and developing new skills, Colin dropped by the NOVA Job Center in San Mateo.

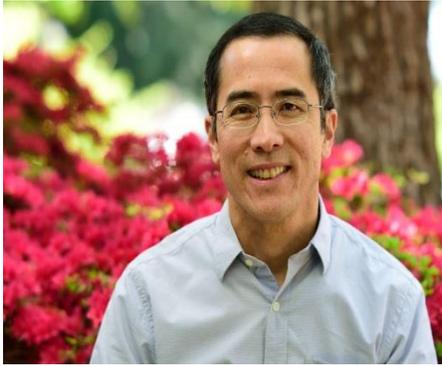
“I found the workshops at NOVA to be the most beneficial resource, especially the ‘LinkedIn’ courses,” Colin said. “The class helped me to get my LinkedIn account up and running. And the entire staff in San Mateo was extremely helpful and provided great customer service. I would definitely recommend that job seekers use their services at NOVA.”

A NOVA staff member encouraged Colin to also join ProMatch – a career networking center for professionals seeking work in the San Francisco Bay Area – to get help exploring career opportunities. ProMatch, part of the NOVA Job Center, is an interactive career resource center for professionals seeking work in the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

“I needed to take the time to assess my skills and future direction, and ProMatch helped me do that,” Colin said. “I can’t say enough about ProMatch – it puts it all together for the job seeker.”

Colin was just hired by the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center, as a lead project analyst, “I credit the NOVA Job Center and ProMatch with helping me to be prepared and focused so that when an opportunity came up to interview at UCSF Medical Center, I was ready to take action.”

**Santa Clara County
NOVA Job Center, Sunnyvale**



Sometimes having a lot of experience can work against a job seeker, as Joseph Loo found out. For nearly two decades, Joseph has worked in a highly specialized field as a microwave antenna electrical engineer.

Joseph says his higher salary and specialized field makes it hard to find employment whenever he's been laid off. But the services offered at the NOVA Job Center in Sunnyvale, an Employment Development Department (EDD) partner, helped connect him to better opportunities.

Along with his depth of experience, Joseph said NOVA and EDD's Experience Unlimited job club helped him learn new skills each of the three times he was laid off. "I improved my interviewing and negotiation skills," said Joseph. "And going to NOVA gave me an overall feeling of confidence."

Joseph took advantage of a number of workshops, including "Tips for the Mature Worker" and "Behavior-based Interviewing." "The instructors are really knowledgeable, and the workshops are very helpful," he said. "You're not just learning from the workshops. It's also a support network."

Joseph wanted to increase his prospects outside of his current industry and found training in an embedded systems program through UC Santa Cruz Extension continuing-education service. Joseph's hard work paid off. He landed a position with Lockheed Martin, a global security and aerospace company, where he's taking on more responsibility. Joseph said, "As a repeat customer, I can truthfully say that I've used other career-enhancing services and found NOVA to be the best!"